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President's Message

Be the One- Celebrate our Success!

It's been another outstanding year for Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows (SITM). I've never met a more passionate, dedicated and committed group of women. Together, we can do anything and we have proven it time and time again!

Our Women's Scholarship luncheon honored an amazing collection of women who juggle academics, family, employment and the challenges of everyday life with the courage and endurance of world-class athletes. We can only imagine the lives they will impact when their education is complete. Their dream is a little closer because of our scholarships.

The members of SI Pune Metro-East were encouraged with the support of our charter gift two years ago. That gift enabled them to build a new club in Pune and launch programs to make a difference for the "girl child" and improve the health and sanitation of women and their families in outlying villages. Monica's Grant of Friendship visit strengthened our Friendship Link and demonstrated

our desire to have a close bond of service and friendship for years to come.

Since the girls' dormitory in Thulipokhari, Nepal opened in August 2001, over 700 girls received help through SITM's ongoing program. Our support has not only helped educate girls in the area, but it also improved the lives of the entire village. All of this began as a result of a chance meeting by Jeanne Baxter with a young man. You could see the joy and pride on the faces of the villagers when they welcomed Jeanne, Norma Webster, Con-



nie Steinheimer, Monica House and her mother Carol Ann on the first visit ever by SITM club members to Thulipokhari.

And if that is not enough to celebrate, we honored graduating seniors with scholar-

ships at our recent Thanks to Youth luncheon. We also celebrated young heroes who are making a significant difference in the lives of their classmates and their own families. Additionally, we raised enough funds to do it all over again next year!

Congratulations to all the members of our club who, in ways great and small, have been the ones to make a difference in the lives of others. It is because of you, we continue to do incredible things to improve our community and the world.

In appreciation for your service,

President Norma

Board/Business Update *by Faye I. Andersen* **May 2012**



Board Meeting
 Held May 8, 2012

Region Conference

SITM's Delegates Vivian Ruiz and Gayle Baxley, along with President Norma Rash, each reported on happenings at the 36th Annual Sierra Nevada Region Conference, held April 27-29 at the Atlantis in Reno. Their reports of activities, awards, fun and frivolity appear on pages 4 & 5.

Financial Matters

Preliminary budgets for Service and General Fund Treasuries were presented at the May Business Meeting. Any comments can be directed to Finance/Bylaws Co- Coordinators Bev Perkins and Paula Ringkob. Thanks to them and their committee members for their work in preparing us for the new Club Year. The final budgets will be voted upon at the June Business Meeting.

SITM members sold the remaining "Soroptimists are Hot" fans at the SNR Conference and netted an additional \$315 for the club's General Fund.

At the May 3 meeting featuring a program on our Friendship Link Club, SI/Puné Metro East, and our dormitory/scholarship project for girls in Nepal, a total of \$165 was raised by the IGU Committee for three pieces of artwork raffled at the meeting.

Date Change for IGU Garage Sale

It's official, the IGU Committee's semi-annual Garage Sale has been rescheduled for June 15 set-up and June 16 sale. Please save the dates on your calendar and plan to join in the fun. Also, continue to hold onto your donations, or if you can't store them any longer, they can be transported to Ethan Allen in Reno. Please call ahead (826-1722) and ask for an appropriate time to make the delivery so as to not interfere with the store's furniture deliveries.

Board/Business Update Continued

Happy Dollars for Make A Wish

April's Happy Dollars totaled \$405 and were designed for donation to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. May's Happy Dollars are designated for the Early Head Start Program. June's collections will be designated by President Norma.

Volunteer Opportunities Offered

Several opportunities to volunteer your time and talents were presented by members at the May Business Meeting. Here's a recap. Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada is seeking volunteers to help with the June 23rd 100th Anniversary Roundup at Rancho San Rafael in Reno. For information and registration check out their website at <http://www.gssn.org> or see Julia Ratti.

See Nancy Norland if you would like to host a foreign exchange student from China beginning next fall as part of the FACE program. For more information contact the FACE representative Richard Wiseman at saskunming@yahoo.com or ask Nancy.

The Summit's Teen Advisory Board is accepting applications for the SummitUP program consisting of teens that have a passion for community service and the retail and fashion industry. Applications are available at: www.thesummitonline.com/reno, or contact Kathy Martin.

Membership Notes

Remaining on leave through June are Lynn Robins and Sue Smith for personal reasons; and Jayne George through June for employment reasons.

Board Meetings are held each month on the Tuesday prior to the second Thursday of the month. All are invited to attend and see the discussions at the board meeting.

Delegates' Report on Sierra Nevada Region Conference

Twenty-one SITM members attended all or part of the 36th Annual Sierra Nevadans Conference, held April 27-29 at the Atlantis in Reno. SITM's President Norma Rash and Club Delegates Vivian Ruiz and Gayle Baxley reported on conference activities in a trio of reports printed in this issue of the newsletter.

Friday and Saturday Morning Activities – by President Norma Rash

Report of events held Friday, April 27 and Saturday April 28 until noon.

Soroptimists throughout the region and beyond gathered at The Atlantis on Friday, April 27 to celebrate club successes, review and approve changes to SNR Bylaws, vote for candidates for region officers, and honor the Region winners of the Fellowship Grants, Violet Richardson Award, Ruby Award, and Women's Opportunity Awards.

The sales room was crowded with numerous clubs hoping to increase the funds they use for club projects. Soroptimists are avid shoppers and I consider myself to be a seasoned shopper at conferences. It was nice that our "Soroptimists are Hot" sales table was shared with member Carrie Porter and her books on Nevada women. Across from us were Penney Leezy with her amazing jewelry and Jan Veys with her one-of-a-kind clothing. SITM sold 80 of their 91 remaining fans and raised an additional \$315 for our General Fund.



Region members gathered for a no-host social time on Friday late afternoon to meet SIA Director Angela Bunting and SIA Fundraising Council Member Suzanne Sullivan before assembling for dinner. The conference was called to order by Gov. Kay and club presidents were introduced by their district directors. A "Heart Healthy" meal was served to mixed reviews. Gov. Kay recognized Life Members, Laurel Legacy Members, and Laurel Society Members. First-time attendees President Elect Becky, Penney Leezy, Dot Watts, and Jan Veys were also recognized.

The evening's speaker was Marcus Alexander, son of a longtime Soroptimist member from Roseville. His topic was "Be an Ace". SIA Director Angela Bunting offered her thoughts on "Remembering Why

We Joined" and the evening closed with the Governor's Choice Drawing.

The business session opened Saturday after breakfast with the first of three credential reports (315 members and guests were in attendance), adoption of the standing rules, adoption of the program, approval of the 2011 conference minutes, and consideration of the first of 28 bylaw amendments, perhaps a record for the region. There was the report from the Nominating Committee and presentation of candidates, including our own Gayle Baxley for Region Treasurer and Patti Doty for Region Secretary. Each candidate was allowed 1 minute to explain why they deserved delegates' votes.

Consideration of the remaining bylaws by officers and delegates consumed much of the morning and half the afternoon with discussion of various amendments to the proposed bylaws. After a report from SNR Treasurer Gina Grether and the Finance Committee voting delegates were excused to go to the polls. Unfortunately, neither one of our members was elected but we were very proud to have them represent SITM as candidates for region officers. Congratulations to both of them for their willingness to serve.

Saturday activities -- by Vivian Ruiz

To no surprise, this year had no shortage of truly inspiring and worthy awardees. Kelsey Nager received The Violet Richardson Award. Kelsey is a junior at Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills. After volunteering in a Run for Courage race in 2010, she became a strong advocate against sex trafficking in her community. Since then she had continued to educate her peers about the horrible and vicious crimes that are occurring in their community. She recently held a fundraiser to raise awareness, which raised

Saturday activities -- by Vivian Ruiz continued

over \$100,000. She is a truly passionate young woman ensuring she does her part to make a difference in the lives of women in her community. I believe she has the makings of a future Soroptimist! Wouldn't you agree ladies?

"Dream Business! The world of possibilities". These were the words of Angela Bunting, SIA Director, in regards to the Soroptimists International of Americas new campaign and website "Living Our Dream: Shaping our Future". It is a new and unique way to market Soroptimists by encouraging clubs to use social media as a way to attract new members, increase public awareness and raise funds for local projects. It will provide opportunities for Soroptimist clubs to "aspire" women to live their dreams and "inspire" others to live their dream by getting involved in local clubs. Clubs may also receive support on-line by getting information on financial assistance, health related topics or encouragement through inspiration and wisdom. The official launch of the "Living Our Dream" campaign will take place at the SIA Conference in Hawaii, July 18 – 21, 2012. Angela shared that the success of the Live Your Dream Campaign will depend on the participation of clubs and members. Angela stated, "I'm a Dreamer, are you?"

Suzanne Sullivan, of the SIA Fund Raising Council, discussed the variety of different SIA programs offered and how these monies are given back to regions. She discussed how members who wished to continue their financial support of programs supported by Soroptimist may do so through the Laurel Society. Suzanne recognized Laurel Society club members, which included SITM club members Diana Dillon, Sue Camp, Jo Ann Roberts, Norma Webster, Faye Andersen and Kay Dunham. Thank you ladies and to all of our Laurel Society members for your continuous support! A Monthly Giving Option is now available for members who want to support Soroptimist programs and work toward membership in the Laurel Society.

I would like to end with a quote from Emilia Menegrass, who had received support from a local Soroptimist club against domestic abuse, "I was without hope, but now I can and want to start a new life. I have great will power...now that I am free". It is my belief that every woman should feel this way and it is for this reason why I continue to be a Soroptimist. If any of you ladies have never had the opportunity to attend conference...I strongly encourage it. It is a truly inspiring experience but be sure to bring plenty of tissue!

Sunday Activities – by Gayle Baxley

Sunday began with a presentation from the 2010-12 board of directors. Dressed in period costumes, they assumed the personalities of various figures who played key roles in the founding of Soroptimist. These included Violet Richardson, Adelaide Goddard and Stuart Morrow.

Next was the honoring of clubs for their achievements during the year. Truckee Meadows won first place for its newsletter. President Norma accepted the award and immediately texted Holly Wellborn-Hight so that she might know of her stellar achievement.

Clubs were honored for their achievements in Publicity, SOLT (Evelyn Holland Award), Celebrating Success which included Public Awareness, Programs, Fundraising and Membership, and Newsletter.

Then it was time to honor non-Soroptimists. The first was the Region Ruby Award. Angela McClure works for the Shasta County District Attorney's office in the Crime Victims Assistance Center. She is dedicated to working with various agencies on system improvements affecting women, children and families. Her motto is "there is more power with community collaboration".

Because our Region had 100% participation in the Woman Opportunity Awards, our Region was able to honor six women with cash awards this year. This money comes back to the Region from the Federation and depends on the participation of the clubs to determine the amount of the awards. In addition to the Region awards, the clubs had given \$77,820 to deserving women. In the Region, one recipient received \$5,000 and five women received \$3,000. Each of these women faced extreme hardships, some admittedly of their own making. Now they are pursuing success through education, providing good role models for their children and families.

Next, we heard the Program Council Report which informed us that the Federation is putting more emphasis on leadership when selecting winners for the Violet Richardson Award. Presently, the Ruby Award has been discontinued by the Federation.

The Conference concluded with the Soroptimist Pledge.

Thanks to Youth Awards Luncheon

By Holly Welborn-Hight



Over 250 Soroptimists, dignitaries, educators and supporters attended the 2012 Thanks to Youth luncheon to honor outstanding young people in our community. Seven high school students received scholarship awards. The scholarship recipients demonstrated academic excellence and great financial need to further their education. The students will use the funds to pursue degrees in culinary arts, engineering, medicine and more.



The Thanks to Youth Committee also honored youth who are “Unsung Heroes” in our community. *Unsung Hero* awards are given to those who go above and beyond to serve their schools and communities. Many of the students are role models for others and serve as peer mentors for younger students. Following the suicide of a close friend, sisters Molly and Kathleen Lorange started a program at their school called, “Project Hope” where students can meet to discuss issues such as bullying, anger, grief and addiction. Each *Unsung Hero* was honored with a certificate of appreciation and a \$200 shopping spree.



Guests enjoyed an inspirational message from Katy Simon, Washoe County Manager. The tissue boxes on each table were put to good use during the presentation of awards. Each award was presented by the individual who nominated the student. The nominators beamed with pride as they presented each award.



The event ended in true Soroptimist fashion– with a raffle! Guests were thrilled to win some of the amazing raffle items which included jewelry, “Aceball” tickets, and even a fur vest!

All funds made at the 2012 Thanks to Youth Luncheon will pay for scholarships and shopping sprees for 2013 recipients.

Thanks to Youth Awards Luncheon

Photos by Paula Leyba of Image Gallery



Calendar of Events

June 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Celebrating Success	8	9
10	11	12 Incoming/Outgoing Joint Board Mtg.	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Year in Review	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Board Installation	29	30

Thank you, President Norma for an outstanding year!

Your leadership made a lasting impact on women in our community.



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Anyone interested in membership, we would love to have you! We meet every Thursday at noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort on the second floor convention area. Lunch is \$16 so join us!